



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

**DALLAS** Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461

**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151

**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 14, 1972

Foreign Mission Board Leader  
Urges Middle East Peace Effort

**RICHMOND(BP)**--Decrying the tragedy of the Olympics, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official here urged renewed efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"This is a time for diplomats to renew their efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," said John D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East in his report to the board's September meeting here.

"Again last week the tragic hostility of Arabs and Jews was forced on world consciousness," Hughey said. For awhile hate and murder were more real than sportsmanship, fair play and international cooperation.

"The whole world mourns the death of 11 fine Israeli athletes. We should mourn also for the Arab terrorists--for what they became and why, for what they did, and for what has happened to them--and for the Arab refugees killed since the tragedy," said Hughey.

"Christians should pray for Israel and the Arab countries and for the Palestinian Arabs who have no country of their own," he continued.

"This is a time to love both Arabs and Jews and to beseech them in the name of Christ to be reconciled to God." Hughey said.

He noted that 81 Southern Baptist missionaries are at work in Arab lands and 30 in Israel. "They face uncertainties and disappointments but they believe--and I do also--that they are where God wants them to be," he concluded.

In major business actions, the board appropriated \$20,000 for relief and rehabilitation in three countries, and made further adjustments in emergency compensation for missionaries and their children.

Board members appropriated \$10,000 for agricultural rehabilitation in Bangladesh and \$5,000 for flood relief in Korea, and formally approved an earlier emergency appropriation of \$5,000 for flood relief in the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Baker J. Cauthen explained that the appropriations for Bangladesh and the Philippines were made from operational funds rather than relief funds because recent major relief appropriations had depleted the board's emergency relief funds.

Since February the board has appropriated \$1,166,499 for relief in Bangladesh, following other amounts approved for that purpose last year, reported Hughey.

In addition, many thousands of dollars in special gifts have been forwarded by the board to Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh for relief work, Hughey said.

He called the missionaries' work in village reconstruction "one of the most significant projects Baptists have ever engaged in."

The latest \$10,000 appropriation "is a partial reply to a request from our missionaries for \$200,000 in additional money for rehabilitation," said Hughey, who suggested this amount as Southern Baptists' goal for village reconstruction.

-more-

**DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY**  
**S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Several missionaries in Bangladesh are directly involved in this work of providing building materials and guiding the construction of hundreds of houses for Bengalis whose homes were destroyed during the 1971 war for independence from Pakistan.

Twelve Southern Baptist Missionaries are now in Bangladesh, Hughey said, and another recently appointed couple will go there next January. One couple now in the United States on furlough will return to Bangladesh.

In line with previous actions, the board adjusted the emergency compensation for missionary families in countries hit by inflation and dollar devaluation. Such adjustments had already been made for some countries.

Board President Drew J. Gunnells Jr., appointed a committee for Eastern and Southern Africa, a new administrative area since the board voted in June to divide its administration of Africa into two areas.

H. Cornell Goerner, formerly secretary for all the board's work in Africa South of the Sahara, will be secretary for Western Africa, and another administrator will be named for Eastern and Southern Africa.

-30-

Former Baptist Executive,  
T.L. Holcomb, Dies at 89

9/14/72

DALLAS (BP)--Thomas Luther Holcomb, 89, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville from 1935-to 1953, died here Sept. 13.

Funeral services were scheduled at First Baptist Church of Durant, Miss., on Sept. 15. Leading the services were James L. Sullivan, present executive secretary of the Sunday School Board; Clifton J. Allen, retired editorial secretary of the board, and Durell Makamson, pastor of the church.

A native of Purvis, Miss., Holcomb had been pastor of the Durant church after graduation from Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He also was pastor of the First Baptist Churches of Yazoo City and Pontotoc, Miss.

He served as Young Men's Christian Association religious director during World War I. Following the war, he became pastor of the First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss. and later served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sherman, Tex.

Holcomb came to the Sunday School Board from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, where he served from 1929 to 1935.

During his 18 years as executive secretary-treasurer of the board, the number of employes increased from 361 to 1,100. The gross income of the board increased during this same time from \$1.7 million to more than \$12 million.

On the day following his retirement as executive secretary of the board, Holcomb became executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, an organization to receive gifts, trusts and bequests to benefit Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Holcomb married Miss Willie Jenkins of Durant, Miss. in 1910. They had two children, Luther Jenkins Holcomb and Louise Holcomb, who later became Mrs. James A. Hall.

His first wife, Willie, died of a heart attack in Durant, Miss. on Feb. 6, 1961.

Holcomb remarried on Dec. 19, 1964 to Miss Eunice King of Sherman, Tex.

He retired from his assistant pastorate position at the Dallas church in 1961 and had been active in supply preaching until about two years ago when his health began to fail.

-30-

### Georgia Executive Body Gives Approval for College Merger

ATLANTA (BP)--A proposed merger of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and the Atlanta Baptist College here received the blessing of the Georgia Baptist Convention's Executive Committee meeting here on the Atlanta College campus.

Brief debate developed over the exact working of a proposed new charter and articles of incorporation, but it was quickly settled.

Trustees of the two institutions had voted in June to seek a merger. Atlanta Baptist College would in effect become an Atlanta branch of the Macon-based Mercer University. Atlant Baptist College has struggled for students and finances since it opened five years ago.

The next step in the merger process comes Oct. 16-17, when the Atlanta Baptist Association meets in annual session. The association, which owns the school, here, will be asked by college trustees to convey their control and interests in the college to Mercer trustees.

Final approval must come from the Georgia Baptist Convention, which meets in annual session in Savannah, Nov. 13-15.

In another action related to Christian education, the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee authorized Truett-McConnell Junior College at Cleveland, Ga., to borrow up to \$150,000 to carry it through the current academic year.

The action stipulates that Truett-McConnell trustees will "tender the institution to the Georgia Baptist Convention for reorganization for another type of ministry," next June, "if it is apparent that the institution can not be successfully operated as a junior liberal arts college."

Truett-McConnell, launched in 1948, slowly climbed to a peak enrollment of about 500 students in 1967. But enrollment dropped sharply after that, to less than 200 students last spring.

Acting president Ronald Weitman, named in June when Warner Earle Fusselle resigned to become president of Palm Beach Atlantic College in Florida, said "things are already looking up at Truett-McConnell in just three months."

He said that belt-tightening financial policies, intensive recruiting efforts and more programs of community support and involvement have produced a brighter picture for the mountain school.

Weitman predicted that this fall's enrollment will top 250, and that he hoped to have enrollment back up to 500 within three years.

In another major action, the Georgia executive Committee authorized its administration committee to present "as soon as practical" a reorganization plan for Executive Committee work, to establish a "divisional" pattern instead of a "departmental" plan.

Several SBC states have moved to the "divisional" system. Georgia leaders have discussed such an idea for five years.

A resolution designating a portion of the retirement income of ministers as a tax-exempt housing allowance was approved by the Georgia group.

It is in keeping with new Internal Revenue Service regulations, and follows a similar resolution adopted by South Carolina Baptists recently.

A proposal that would have prevented any person 70 years of age or older from being elected as a trustee of a Georgia Baptist agency or institution was soundly defeated. It did not get a single vote after opponents hotly contested the motion.

Black Church in Atlanta  
Seeks Southern Baptist Ties

ATLANTA (BP)--One of the largest Negro Baptist churches in Atlanta has applied for full membership in the Atlanta Baptist Association, which if approved, would provide affiliation with the Georgia and Southern Baptist Conventions.

Union Baptist Church, located in southwest Atlanta, sent a formal letter of application for membership to the Atlanta association's credential committee.

W.L. Rainwater, chairman of the credentials committee and pastor of Virginia Avenue Baptist Church, said his committee will recommend that the Union Church be admitted to the association when it meets for annual session Oct. 16-17.

James L. Wilborn is pastor at Union church, known as one of Atlanta's most progressive Negro Baptist churches. His church has a few white members, but is predominantly black. Union church has over 1,300 members and property valued at more than \$850,000.

Wilborn's letter of application, which Rainwater praised for its "deep sincerity," pointed out that Union church had been using Southern Baptist literature and programs for years; that "we have come to appreciate programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and want to support them"; that Union people subscribed to the Baptist Statement of Faith and Message; and that "there are whites in our area who might be reached if we were a Southern Baptist church."

The letter added: "We are not seeking publicity, nor wanting to be divisive."

Wilborn is president of the New Era Baptist Convention, affiliated with the Progressive Baptist Convention.

-30-

Non-Delegates Denied Vote  
By Spanish Baptist Union

9/14/72

ALCOY, SPAIN (BP)--Messengers (delegates to the 20th convention of the Spanish Baptist Union defeated a constitutional amendment which would have given pastors and accredited Southern Baptist missionaries the right to vote in conventions without their being messengers of a local church.

The defeat of the proposed amendment overturned the non-delegate voting privilege formerly enjoyed by missionaries as well as pastors and other institutional workers within the union.

"This was defeated on the grounds of being un-Baptistic since the Spanish Baptist Union is a union of churches and only they can send representatives to vote on matters," reported Southern Baptist Missionary Indy Whitten.

During the convention, "the general spirit prevailed of accepting responsibility for the evangelization of Spain," said Mrs. Whitten. It was made clear in several sessions that funds from the United States would be reduced gradually and that Spanish Baptists "must accept their stewardship responsibility," she said.

The 97 messengers reelected Jose Borrás, evangelist and seminary professor and a former Catholic priest, to a third term as president of the Union. He was unopposed.

Fifty-five churches and 47 missions in Union were represented by the messengers and 47 registered visitors. They expressed appreciation to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the 29 Southern Baptist Missionaries working in Spain.

Mrs. Whitten and her husband Charles received special recognition for their contributions during 19 years as missionaries in Spain.

-30-

Nixon, McGovern Will Not Speak  
To Moral Issues, Scales Says

NASHVILLE (BP)--Listing what he considered to be the major moral issues in politics today, the president of Wake Forest University told a Baptist group here that neither candidate for President would address himself to the real moral issues in the campaigns.

"It will be a contest of image making," predicted James Ralph Scales of Winston-Salem, N. C., in an address to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission annual meeting here.

He added that if there has been an election in this century "that has been more of a foregone conclusion, I can't recall it."

Scales, a former political science professor who rose to the presidency of Oklahoma Baptist University and later Wake Forest University, listed in his address what he felt are "the real moral issues in the political crisis of our times."

First and foremost, he said, is the Vietnam war. The candidates will not really address themselves to the moral implications of the war, he charged. "No presidential or political candidate could be elected if he showed any great concern for non-American lives. That is a reality of existence.

"We all look with complacency on the pulverizing of a little country that is of no real threat to our nation or to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization," Scales said.

He read a lengthy article from New Yorker magazine condemning American complacency over the immorality of the war. The article claimed that "the American machine in Vietnam is a death factory" and that most Americans don't care. "The war is not what we are doing, but what we are," the New Yorker said.

Scales commented that America's unconcern about the morality of the war "is an unhappy commentary on the state of the Christian experience today." It is a sad sermon on the selective love Christians and Americans practice, he said.

There are other issues, Scales said, but the war overrides them all.

Other moral issues, he said, include the draft, amnesty, the environment, poverty in the midst of plenty, the vulgar and vicious display of wealth in America, women's rights, inroads against Bill of Rights freedoms, civil rights, gun control, fiscal responsibility, the scandal of health care costs, consumer rights, tax reforms, and the high cost of living.

Scales said that three so-called religious issues in the campaign--aid to parochial schools, church property taxation, and the prayer amendment--are not really significant issues.

"Both candidates have promised aid to parochial schools," he said. "President Nixon has done almost everything but say mass for the Catholics to win support," he charged.

Christians should be far more concerned, he argued, about the moral implications of other issues, even though the candidates will try to gloss over them in their image building.

Fiscal responsibility, the need for thoroughgoing tax reform, and the incredible influence of big business on government to obtain preferential legislation are other major issues the candidates will try to ignore, he said.

"You have to be a millionaire, or beholden to a millionaire, to run for Congress, Senate, or Governor these days," he observed.

It reflects badly on Americans that "Lady Bird Johnson could sell her television station for \$9 million, and that President Nixon will retire from office a very wealthy man," Scales said.

He charged that the intimidation of the press by politicians has made it difficult for a humane, moral viewpoint to get a hearing.

Dealing with "the scandal of poverty in the midst of affluence," Scales said the nation needs some new directions, some new programs to overcome poverty.

(MORE)

Asked in a question period if he favored a guaranteed minimum wage or a welfare state, Scales said he was not a welfare state advocate, "but I do prefer welfare to ill-fare."

Scales said he wished that it were possible for loving Christians to voluntarily solve the problems of poverty in the land, but they have historically refused to do so. Government is the only instrument practically capable of handling problems of this magnitude in society, he said.

-30-

Christian Life Commission  
Adopts Budget, Elects Sherman

9-14-72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here elected a new chairman, adopted a record budget, and added a staff writer for a one-year period in major business actions.

The commission also commended a resolution proposing a study of rising medical costs in America, and asked its staff to undertake the study. W. Landon Miller, pastor from Richmond, introduced the resolution at the Southern Baptist Convention last June in Philadelphia, and the convention referred the matter to the commission for study.

The record \$284,000 budget, an increase of \$34,000 over the current budget, includes funds for two additional professional staff members and a staff writer.

Named for a one-year period as staff writer was David Gooch, former missionary journeyman who handled public relations for Hong Kong Baptist College for two years. Gooch is a native of Columbus, Miss., and a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham.

The commission also voted to take over financial responsibility for promotion of Race Relations Sunday, formerly promoted jointly by the commission and the SBC Home Mission Board, and to begin in 1973 an annual promotion of Christian Citizenship Sunday in SBC churches.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., was elected chairman, succeeding Charles Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

Other new officers include: vice chairman, Lloyd Crawford, businessman from Evergreen, Colo.; and secretary, Chevis Horne, pastor from Martinsville, Va.

In other business, the commission voted to select representatives on each of the six SBC seminaries to share information and serve as liaison between the commission and the seminaries, and approved dates for several upcoming meetings.

Four regional conferences in 1973 dealing with "The Local Church and Christian Social Concern" were tentatively approved for meetings in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida and Maryland. A national seminar was slated March 18-20, 1974, in the Southwest; and two conferences were approved for next year at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

-30-



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 15 1972  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203